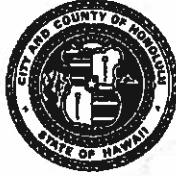


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**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
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KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR



ROY K. AMEMIYA, JR.
MANAGING DIRECTOR

GEORGETTE T. DEEMER
DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR

August 19, 2019

The Honorable Ron Menor, Chair
and Members
Committee on Zoning, Planning and Housing
Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street, Room 202
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Menor and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: Bill 25 (2019)

The Mayor's Office of Housing encourages passage of Bill 25 (2019), which adopts the State Energy Code, 2015 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) with local amendments.

One of the top priorities for the Mayor's Office of Housing is keeping rent affordable to low-income families, veterans and seniors. The adoption of the 2015 IECC with local amendments enables housing providers to devote more resources to preserving and expanding affordable housing, while also improving the health and well-being of building residents. Affordable housing providers need supportive policies to help integrate energy efficiencies and reduce the energy burdens on low-income households.

Long-term affordability is a highlighted benefit from the passage of Bill 25 (2019), specifically the renewable hot water mandate ensuring that residents living in single-family homes have water heating systems that are economically favorable over the long-term. Families typically spend a disproportionate amount of their income on utility bills. It is estimated that the renewable hot water mandate would offer potential savings of approximately \$8,000 over a 15 year span.

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In 2018, a six-year old home, for example, that was constructed to the 2006 code instead of the contemporary 2015 version, has been using approximately 33% more energy than needed for the past six years, and will continue to do so for its lifetime. This is wasteful with our resources and further propelling the city away from our aimed sustainability goals. The city is committed to reducing our local carbon footprint and a renewable hot water heating system offers the most environmentally friendly option for water heating.

Additionally, electricity generated with fossil fuels has had a disproportionate impact on the health of low-income families with the increased likelihood of being exposed to harmful substances that lead to higher rates of health problems, like asthma and lung disease. Targeted policies such as those included in the administration's energy code update also work to reduce some of these public health issues.

In summary, adoption of the updated energy code represents a unique opportunity to offer a multi-pronged approach that benefits O'ahu's residents in several ways, especially low-income communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide supporting comments on Bill 25 (2019). Should you have any questions, please contact me at marc.alexander@honolulu.gov or 768-4303.

Sincerely,



Marc Alexander
Executive Director
Office of Housing

APPROVED:



Roy K. Amemiya Jr.
Managing Director